

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 IO-03 PRS-01 EUR-10 NEA-06 OIC-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 /070 W

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R 200413Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6147

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USUN 585

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9915

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO

SUBJECT: ROMULO'S VIEWS ON NEXT SEATO COUNCIL MEETING

1. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE AUGUST 19 ON A TOUR OF EASTERN EUROPEAN CAPITALS ENROUTE TO UNGA, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ROMULO SPOKE WITH ME BRIEFLY CONCERNING THE NEXT SEATO COUNCIL MEETING. HE SAID HIS DISCUSSIONS IN BANGKOK LEFT HIM WITH IMPRESSION THAT SEATO POLICY IS GENERALLY ADRIFT AND THAT NEW YORK MEETING THIS OCTOBER MIGHT BE A SHAMBLES.

1. HIS OWN VIEW REMAINS THAT SEATO SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTERINSURGENCY IN THE TOW REGIONAL STATES - THAILAND AND PHILIPPINES. HE IS PREPARED TO MAKE HIS COUNCIL PRESENTATION ALONG THOSE LINES.

3. HOWEVER, HE WISHES TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH U.S. VIEWPOINT IF WE HAVE OTHER IDEAS. HE WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON U.S. POLICY POSITION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE SUGGESTED THAT HE BE PROVIDED WITH BRIEFING PAPER IN NEW
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YORK, WHERE HE WILL BE WORKING ON HIS POSITION AND PREPARING

FOR UNGA. HE ARRIVES IN NEW YORK SEPT. 8 AND WILL BE STAYING AT WALDORF.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD SUGGEST THAT DEPT. PREPARE BRIEF OUTLINE OF POSITIONS WHICH WE PROPOSE TO TAKE AT OCTOBER SEATO MEETING AND FORWARD IT TO ROMULO THROUGH USUN. I WOULD FURTHER SUGGEST THAT THIS BE FOLLOWED UP BY OFFER TO SEND MISSION OFFICER OR, PREFERABLY, DEPT. OFFICER TO DISCUSS SEATO MEETING WITH ROMULO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK. WITH THIS SORT OF THREATMENT, I FEEL WE CAN COUNT ON A CONSTRUCTIVE PHILIPPINE CONTRIBUTION TO SEATO SESSION.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA09915
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740228-0935
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740834/aaaabcmp.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROMULO'S VIEWS ON NEXT SEATO COUNCIL MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, US, RP, SEATO, (ROMULO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005